

Application No. 10/064,973
Amendment dated March 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 10, 2003

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An inflatable external airbag system having an airbag which can be deployed from a rear portion of a hood along an outer surface of a windshield of a motor vehicle, comprising:
a regulating member for deflecting the airbag toward the windshield when the airbag deploys;
wherein the regulating member is positioned so that the deployed airbag is located between the regulating member and the windshield.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the hood includes a front and rear portion and the rear portion comprises the regulating member.
3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the regulating member moves upwardly from the front portion of the hood as the airbag deploys.
4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the regulating member is pivotally connected to the front portion of the hood.
5. (Original) An inflatable airbag system for a vehicle having a windshield and a hood, the system comprising:
an airbag positioned under a rear portion of the hood configured to deploy on an exterior surface of the windshield;
wherein the rear portion of the hood is configured so that during inflation of the airbag the rear portion pivots upwardly away to deflect the airbag toward the windshield.

6. (Original) An inflatable airbag system for a vehicle having a windshield, a hood and a cowl, the system comprising:

an airbag configured to deploy on an exterior surface of the windshield;
wherein the cowl comprises a regulating member having a top surface positioned essentially flush with the hood;
wherein the airbag is located under the regulating member; and
wherein the regulating member is configured so that when the airbag inflates the regulating member tilts upwardly to deflect the inflating airbag toward the windshield.

7. (Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein regulating member is positioned so that the upward tilting ~~movement~~ of the regulating member is limited by the hood.

8. (New) An inflatable external airbag system for a vehicle having a hood include a front and rear thereof, and a windshield adjacent the rear of the hood, the inflatable external airbag system comprising:

an airbag for being deployed along the vehicle windshield; and
a rear portion of the hood closer to the rear of the hood than the front thereof with the airbag deploying from the hood rear portion toward the generally adjacent vehicle windshield to minimize wind and air pressure influences in securely deploying the airbag along the windshield.

9. (New) The inflatable external airbag system of claim 8 wherein the airbag is positioned under the hood rear portion, and the hood rear portion comprises a regulating member that deflects the airbag toward the windshield when the airbag deploys.

10. (New) The inflatable external airbag system of claim 8 wherein the hood further includes a cowl at the rear thereof, and the cowl comprises a regulating member that pivots upwardly to deflect the airbag toward the windshield when the airbag deploys.